

## FARMERS' UNION NEWS

Practical Thoughts for Practical Farmers.

(Conducted by E. W. Dabbs, President S. C. Farmers Union.)

## Some Random Thoughts.

Last week in compliance with the wishes of the Sumter County union I went to Washington on Monday to appear before the agricultural committee on the cotton grading bill which Mr. Lever has introduced. These hearings were from 10:30 to 12 each day, the balance of the time was put in planning and consulting with others who were up there on the same errand, except part of one afternoon, when I went to Arlington, the beautiful home of Gen. R. E. Lee on the Virginia side of the Potomac, now the national cemetery.

I thought this the most beautiful site for a home that I had seen anywhere, but two days later when Mr. Cooper and I stood on the lawn of Mt. Vernon and admired the taste of George Washington in the laying out of his grounds for convenience and for symmetry, I was and am still puzzled to decide which is the more beautiful place. Because of its distance from the city and absence of any man-made scars on the landscape, Mt. Vernon seems to be the favorite as my mind pictures the panorama of each place. The Arlington trip was made on a sight-seeing car with some twenty strangers. And the noise, dust and jarring of the car gave me a headache. The Mt. Vernon trip was with Mr. R. M. Cooper, that whom it is hard to find a more agreeable traveling companion, as I have found on this and several other trips. We boarded a trolley car one block from our hotel at 4 o'clock, and for an hour traversed the historic places of Alexandria, and the hillside of the Potomac. Then for nearly an hour we hurried from room to room, pausing frequently to admire the view from first one place and then another, until the closing bell sounded and we rode slowly down the winding road past the tomb, where we paused for a moment and on to the steamboat landing. On board we went to the dining saloon and leisurely lunched while we steamed up the broad Potomac.

But I must not try to picture the scenes, nor describe our emotions as we stood on these sacred grounds where the Washingtons and Lees made history 150 and 160 years ago. My advice to every one who can possibly do so is to go to Washington whenever possible, and by all means visit these two historic spots. I was glad to see and meet so many Sumter people who were intent upon visiting as many of the places of interest as they could in a day or two. Mr. Cooper and I saw just enough to make us wish for a week with nothing to do but go through the government buildings and read the inscriptions and admire the flowers and the parks. And we want to devote a whole day to Mt. Vernon and another to Arlington.

The readers of this paper, I know, have kept up with the proceedings of the cotton congress. I am sure it did a world of good in focusing the attention of the administration and of congress upon the situation in the South and that all that can be done by the government short of buying cotton, will be done. It remains with the bankers, merchants and farmers to co-operate as to handle cotton to the advantage of us all. Meetings will be held this week in all the cotton counties and the loyalty of our people to the plans there developed will determine the success of the movement.

E. W. D.

## Some Random Thoughts.

I am asking for space in this department for topics for the local unions as suggested by the National committee on topics, and wish to add J. Z. Green's article on applying the Rochdale Principles to Co-operation, and "Where is My Boy Tonight."

These are live subjects for consideration by every local union; and the Rochdale System should be studied by every stockholder in the Union Brokerage company.

Next week the county union will meet with Salem Union on Friday, August 28th. It is probable that reports from the Southern Cotton Congress will be the feature of the meeting. The writer was sent to be at the Lever committee hearings by the last meeting of the county union. Messrs. Belser and Kolb attended the congress and Col. E. J. Watson, president of the congress, has accepted the invitation of the county union to be present at this meeting, unless the

pressing duties of the cotton congress take up his time. I know that he expects to be present.

The Farmers' Union was splendidly represented in Washington, nearly every delegate that I named attended and several other good men whom I had missed in making up the lists. South Carolina had a most representative body of men at the congress, about half of them members of the union.

E. W. D.

## "Where is My Boy Tonight."

From the Progressive Farmer.

A farmer has just sent us an order to run the following advertisement illustrated with his own son's picture:

"Above is a photo of ——— who ran away from home July 21st, 1914. He is 16 years old, weighs 120 pounds, and is five feet tall. He had on a brown suit and knee pants and carried a hand grip when he left home. Any information leading to his whereabouts will be liberally rewarded."

When the letter was handed to me, I turned to the picture expecting to see the face of a mean, bad boy—even the face of a criminal. Instead—there stood just a great, big, broad shouldered kid about 16. While he didn't look happy, there was something in his defiant eyes, and the poise of his tousled-up, fine-shaped head that made my heart go out to him. And there came to me in imagination the face of his mother. What of her? Would she like to see her boy's face in public print as a runaway? And would our thousands of readers surmise that he had only been guilty of running away. Wouldn't thousands have thought he had done something bad before he ran away?

Yes they would, and not for all the world would I see the ink of The Progressive Farmer smear the face of a mere boy—not even if he were a thief!

Once and for all: This paper has a larger mission than making money. We only want advertising of something which will bring good to all concerned. You need not try to buy space for anything else.

This letter offering to pay for the advertisements made me so "bloom-in" mad that I took sides with the boy.

What ran him away from home? Has he a horse or a pig or a flock of good sheep—all his own? Has his father a gasoline engine—or did this "runaway" carry water 200 yards from a spring? Was the house painted and cheery? Was there a big bathtub, a telephone, a talking machine or a hammock and good books in his home? Did a "Big Ben" clock scare him out of bed at 4 a. m., when 6 a. m. was early enough, and could he reach with pride to his "watch pocket" and pull forth an "Ingersoll"? Did he climb the stairs at night with only a lantern or smoky lamp to guide his weary feet—or had he an "Angle Lamp" in his bed room, and the Youth's Companion to lull him to sleep?

No—I'll bet a steamboat to a mustard seed he didn't have these things! If he had had he wouldn't probably have run away. "There's no place like home" when that home is a happy home and boys don't run away from happy homes.

I'm not trying to put "fool notions" in any boy's head; nor do I think they ought to run away. Yet I've seen too much of a farm boy's life to make me take sides against them, except when I know they are past redemption.

Now, you, Mr. Farmer—are you certain you gave this boy a square deal? Was your farm owned by "— and Son"? Or was he worked like a hired man without real wages and given only a place to eat and sleep?

Wherever you are, Little Pal, God bless you. Wherever you go, be a man. Do nothing you wouldn't do if your mother were there. Keep your heart and mind and body clean, Little Pal, and then—when you've made good—go home and shake the "old man's hand."

In the meantime—why not "— and Son" on every farm gate and on every letterhead?

## APPLYING THE ROCHDALE PRINCIPLE OF COOPERATION.

An Explanation of the Essential Features of the System as Conducted in England and in Minnesota.

The Rochdale principle of doing business at the regular level of prices that prevail in the community is so different from the price-breaking method usually employed by inexperienced cooperators that it makes it more difficult to apply. The Rochdale cooperator gets his goods "at cost," but he must pay the usual margin of profit at his store when each individual transaction takes place, just as he would pay at any other store. In paying to the cooperative store the regular price for goods he pays no more than he would have to pay to some private profit-taking store if his own cooperative store did not exist. But periodically he is paid back the excess which he pays in, after allowing capital the legal rate of interest, and paying salaries and ex-

penses and setting aside the usual reserve to cover depreciation, and for expansion of the business.

The theory of "profit-making" in associations of consumers has been vividly explained by a prominent English leader in the cooperative movement in the following manner:

"A number of men and women combine and start a co-operative store, agreeing for reasons of convenience to sell their goods to one another at the ordinary shop-keeper's prices, and divide the surplus later in proportion to their purchases under the name of dividend. They save the retailer's profit and obtain their goods at what they would have cost the shop-keeper, plus the expense of distribution; they save the surplus but they make no commercial profit. If a number of stores combine together to establish a wholesale agency for purchasing directly from the manufacturer or producer, they save all middle profits but make no profits for themselves. The net result is the same as if they sold their goods at once at cost price."

In all Rochdale cooperative stores what we usually call "profits" are treated as surplus and are divided pro rata upon the amount of purchases made by each member. In getting back this surplus he simply gets back the overplus he paid in when he made purchases, and as the surplus is what is left after satisfying capital by paying its legal hire and after paying rents, clerk hire and expenses incurred, it represents an overplus that properly belongs to those who paid it in.

Profit in the economic sense of "a pecuniary gain" accruing from commercial transactions between two persons, cannot exist in consumers' cooperation, wherein buyer and seller are practically one person. The device, which is the distinguishing feature of the Rochdale system of charging retail prices current in the ordinary markets and returning the margin upon cost—"the fund commonly known as profit"—to those who had paid it in purchasing the goods, has been found equitable, sound and practical. Something over 150 stores in Minnesota have been established under the English Rochdale plan, with slight modifications, by the Right Relations League. The "profits" are divided on patronage and all purchases are included except the things that are sold for less than 5 per cent gross. Unless the goods sold carry a price that amounts to as much as 5 per cent above cost the tickets for such goods are marked "net" and do not carry any patronage dividend. Where competition is sharp on certain staple goods it is important that a provision be made similar to this, for it would be unwise and unjust to include in patronage dividends goods that are sold practically at cost, and I am glad to note here that some of the Farmers' Union enterprises that are operating on the Rochdale plan in North Carolina have embodied in their by-laws a feature for marking their purchase tickets "net" for goods that do not carry as much as 5 per cent gross above cost.

In building the cooperative structure the most important, and yet the most difficult, side to deal with is the human side. While many of the distributive enterprises promoted through the influence of the Farmers' Union are simply joint stock companies depending upon the union sentiment for patronage, we have quite a number of companies or associations that have embodied the Rochdale feature in their by-laws and others are making this amendment. On this basis the true cooperative seed has been planted and its growth will be limited only by the human action of the individual units. If each human being that professes loyalty will consider that his trade or patronage is the most important asset that he possesses he will be careful how he invests it. We are going to invest this tangible and valuable asset either in our own cooperative business, which will return the surplus to those who make the investment, or we are going to donate it to some private profit-taking agency that keeps all the results of our patronage investment. We have been using it heretofore to build up private fortunes for others and we have built a lot of them. In fact, practically all the profits of agriculture, together with most of the profits that have arisen from the enhancement of the value of lands, have been acquired by those who have done nothing to create values, but who merely accumulate what others produced—reaped the profits of other men's industry. When business and commercial industries are put upon the participating basis, letting patronage and labor acquire the surplus which they produce, there will be fewer glaring and criminal inequalities to disgrace our civilization.

If I were asked to point out the real heroes of the Farmers' Union I would refer you to the faithful officers of the local Unions who attended the meetings regularly and are all the time encouraging the members to attend and become active in all

sorts of community cooperation.

With the Rochdale principle of co-operation applied to business and organized industry can you imagine the result in ten years? Ten years seems too long. Suppose the organized farmers in every locality should decide to invest all their trade and patronage in their own cooperative associations just one year, on the same level of prices now current in business, how many substantial brick buildings would it be possible for them to erect and own at the end of the year period? You can answer this question more intelligently if you will take an inventory of the handsome stores and warehouse buildings that the investment of your patronage built for other people in various towns last year. If we could make it soak deeply into the minds of our members that their patronage is the most important asset they possess, if they will keep on investing in their cooperative business, they would quit committing business suicide by deserting their own places of business to swallow the puny baits thrown out by private competitors.

## Some Farmers' Union Notes From South Carolina.

On August 1 the writer, Mr. B. Harris, member of the executive committee of the State Union, and Col. E. J. Watson, commissioner of agriculture, went from Columbia to Center Local Union, about 20 miles over in Lexington county, to the sixth annual rally of this progressive union.

Mr. Harris spoke on the need of soil building and how it is to be done; Col. Watson on the abuse of the use of commercial fertilizers; and the writer on "What the Union has done, and what can be done through the Union." He also called the attention of the union to the call for information as to the tonnage of fertilizing material that the unions will need for next year that the State executive committee may be able to contract for the same, and discussed panic in cotton prices that the war in Europe has brought on.

The dinner was the best of the many good dinners these good people have served. In accordance with announcements made last year, there were 12 or 14 head of dairy cows, six or seven pigs, and a dozen pounds of butter entered for prizes. Mr. B. Harris shipped to Columbia a month-old bull calf from one of his fine Jerseys as a prize for the best cow. The State's agricultural car was a sight as it drove from Columbia over 20 miles of the capital-to-capital highway with the calf crate tied on the left running board and the dignified commissioner of agriculture, and no less dignified former president of the State Union, petting the calf and trying to reconcile it to this mode of travel.

First prize cow, Manuel Long; second, J. H. Price.

First pound of butter, Mrs. J. H. Price; second, Mrs. Lemuel Seay.

First pig, W. H. Hendrix; second pig, H. D. Herman.

Next year these good people promise something much better.

The executive committee of the State union has mapped out field work for reviving the Union in several counties. The president is authorized to put in the field as many organizers as he can secure. The rural credit societies now being organized in the Union, and the fertilizer contracts that it appears the Union will be able to make for its membership ought to bring all the good farmers into its ranks.

Probably the most important action of the committee today was the call for the re-assembling of the Southern Cotton Congress. We believe the impending disaster is so great that every interest of the South must be lined up at once for concerted action to save the value of cotton to its people. The Farmers' Union of South Carolina is taking the lead in this move. On the streets of Columbia it is being talked of with more earnestness than the war news from Europe. It is being proposed that the bankers get together and underwrite every bale of distressed cotton in the State and absolutely hold it until the war is over and the world's commerce has settled down. It is proposed to have the State underwrite the cotton bonds made necessary by such a procedure on the part of the banks.

Fully believing that we must meet at the earliest practicable date to plan a method of saving the cotton crop of the State and of the South, the writer endorses what Theo. H. Price, says in his supplement to Commerce and Finance of July 26, that because of its enormous cost the expected war cannot occur. But even if this is the correct view, the excitement of the times has already cost the State of South Carolina 20 million dollars, and the South 200 million dollars, unless some kind of finance can be devised to keep from letting any cotton go at the ruinous prices quoted today.

E. W. D.

Spider a Formidable Foe. A half-inch spider has been known to catch and land a two-inch fish.

## CLASS ANT WITH FLY

MISC. 3 A — 2536

BOTH ENEMIES OF THE HUMAN RACE, SAY SCIENTISTS.

Pests Are Equally Active in Carrying Disease Germs—Experiments in Panama Canal Zone Have Substantiated Theories.

No suspicion until lately has arisen that the industrious ant might upon occasion act as the transmitting agent of infection to man, says the London Lancet. It was known that some species, such as the white ant, has very destructive tendencies in certain parts of the tropics and that the bites of some large tropical ants caused a good deal of general disturbance, being attended with faintness and shivering and sometimes with temporary paralysis. It was also known that some savage races used the dried bodies of ants, beaten into a paste, as an arrow poison, but it is only of late that suggestion has been made that this insect might convey pathogenic bacteria to man. The ant is commonly found in and around the dwellings of people residing in the tropics. It is indeed, a matter of difficulty to keep this insect away from foodstuffs in such houses, and it is equally difficult to keep the ant away from human defects when these are not properly disposed of. So that it cannot be doubted that the ant has the opportunity of carrying from infected excreta the specific organisms of disease to the food stored in human dwellings.

Little or no experimental work, however, had been done to obtain proof that ants were capable of transmitting disease to man, but in 1912 Dr. L. B. Bates, bacteriologist at Ancon hospital in the Panama Canal zone, undertook a series of experiments with a view of putting to the test whether or not the ant acted as a transmitting agent of such infections as enteric fever and bacillary dysentery. His investigations were carried out with the large yellow ants which are found in and around the houses in the canal zone. He fed a number of these insects on bread soaked with cultures of bacillus typhosus for five days, killing and examining some of them at certain intervals, but in no instance was he able to recover the typhoid bacillus from the intestines of the ants. The experiment was carefully repeated with like negative results. He then tried to determine if the ant could carry the specific organisms on its legs or body in a purely mechanical way to human food.

To this end a number of the insects were dropped into a broth culture of the typhoid bacillus and allowed afterward to crawl out and walk over dishes in such a way that their footprints could be "cultivated" for bacteria. The typhoid bacillus was easily found in every instance. This experiment was repeated several times, and in the majority of cases positive results were obtained.

## Rising Generation.

For one, I like to believe that the young people of the coming generation are not less able or less earnest, not less willing or less devoted, than those of our own young days. Those men in buckram whom we boast of having fought, were they indeed so much more formidable than the giants in the path of the youth of today? Were we never "cowards on instinct," pluming ourselves on our "discretion"? I feel that we, the talking generation, might suffer in comparison with the youth of today, did not our memories so often play us false. Certainly not all of us have achieved even honesty and courtesy and common human kindness. Did we all once have learning and wit and zeal? Where are our zeal and wit and learning now? Are our sons and daughters so much our inferiors? No, by my halldom! And we know it!—Fannie H. Eckstorm, in the Atlantic.

## Chinese Market Expanding.

Now that the Chinese in many provinces are adopting foreign dress, foreign food and foreign-style houses they are demanding a larger quantity of foreign merchandise. The sale of foreign clothing, shoes, hats and jewelry is rapidly increasing. Foreign-made furniture also is coming more and more into use, and while a great deal of it is being made in China there is a growing demand for foreign locks and hardware of all descriptions. A considerable increase is noticed in the consumption of foreign food and canned provisions are enjoying a wider sale. Foreign food is displacing Chinese food to such an extent that a local guild of Chungking which formerly made huge profits by selling sharks' fins and other Chinese delicacies has suffered heavily of late on account of the growing preference for foreign food.

## "Eat Less and Be Happy."

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Edison eat about half the amount of food now that they did formerly, and both claim to be much the better for their reduction of diet. Mrs. Edison says she even gains in weight under the new system, and says that she hates to think what her weight might be if she had continued with her old methods. The lowest estimate she made was 350 pounds.

When she first joined her husband in curtailing her diet she found great difficulty in subduing her appetite, but now that she has won the battle she says she feels better, sleeps better, can think more clearly and is twice as active.

Certainly her reward is greater than her sacrifice.

## Manning Strong in Beaufort.

To the Editor of The News and Courier: Beaufort County voters are doing some concentrating on their own account. Inclined at first to support R. I. Manning for governor, they have come more and more to regard him as the most available candidate. Friends of other candidates are drifting to him as the one offering the best chance of victory. The Blease candidates will not poll over 150 votes of 700, and out of the remaining 550 Manning will probably get 400.

With about 100,000 votes in 1906 he got nearly 19,000 in the first race with eight candidates running. Today he is much stronger and with a total of 140,000 he should pass the 20,000 mark easily and go into the second race. That is the way they are figuring it out down this way.

Beaufort County.  
Beaufort, Aug. 16, 1914.

## Colored Immigrants.

One of the unique facts relative to immigration is that more than 50,000 Africans—black—have come into this country since 1904.

## Degrees of Quality.

Lord Lincolnshire, speaking a short time ago at High Wycombe, amused his audience with the following: A friend of his, he said, was celebrated for the indifferent liquor he kept. This friend was entertaining a guest on one occasion, and, turning to his Irish butler, he said: "Flanagan, is this the best sort of claret?" "No, sir; it is not," said Flanagan. "But it is the best you have got."

## Tragic Result of Jealousy.

A terrible "remedy" for jealousy was employed by a good-looking woman named Borra, the wife of an Italian tradesman living at Luino, near Lugano, recently. The couple had been married five years, and the husband, who was very jealous, made frequent scenes for which there was no reason. In desperation at last his wife obtained some vitriol and washed her face with the liquid "to spoil my beauty and keep my husband's love," she explained to the doctor. The woman's hands and face were terribly burned, and she has been taken to hospital. Her husband cannot be consoled.

## A Century Ago.

One hundred years ago Napoleon took leave of his soldiers at Fontainebleau, preparatory to beginning his exile at Elba. On the same day Louis XVIII entered London in state and a few days later sailed from Dover for France to ascend the throne vacated by Napoleon. In the midst of the enthusiasm excited among certain classes of the French people by the fall of Napoleon and the restoration of the monarchy, there was felt generally a painful sense of depression. As the celebrated historian, Lamartine, remarked, "The king must have had great courage or a thirst of power, to accept a throne and a nation buried under so many ruins."

## SCHEDULE.

SOUTH	CAROLINA	WESTERN
RAILWAY.		
No. 7.	No. 5.	
5.00 P. M.	10.40 A. M. Lv. Hartsville.	
5.24 P. M.	11.04 A. M. Lv. Lydia.	
5.32 P. M.	11.12 A. M. Lv. Young.	
5.37 P. M.	11.17 A. M. Lv. Alcot.	
5.33 P. M.	11.32 A. M. Lv. B'pville.	
6.07 P. M.	11.47 A. M. Lv. Manville.	
6.12 P. M.	11.52 A. M. Lv. Meredith.	
6.21 P. M.	12.01 P. M. Lv. Aman.	
6.28 P. M.	12.08 P. M. Lv. DuBose.	
6.37 P. M.	12.17 P. M. Lv. Brent.	
6.55 P. M.	12.35 P. M. Ar. Sumter.	
No. 6.	No. 8.	
8.35 A. M.	3.00 P. M. Lv. Sumter.	
8.53 A. M.	3.18 P. M. Lv. Brent.	
9.02 A. M.	3.27 P. M. Lv. DuBose.	
9.09 A. M.	3.34 P. M. Lv. Aman.	
9.18 A. M.	3.43 P. M. Lv. Meredith.	
9.23 A. M.	3.48 P. M. Lv. Manville.	
9.39 A. M.	4.04 P. M. Lv. B'pville.	
9.53 A. M.	4.18 P. M. Lv. Alcot.	
9.58 A. M.	4.23 P. M. Lv. Young.	
10.06 A. M.	4.31 P. M. Lv. Lydia.	
10.30 A. M.	4.55 P. M. Ar. Hartsville.	
No. 6 leaving Sumter 8.35 A. M. connects from North and West, and for Darlington and Florence.		
No. 8 leaving Sumter 3.00 P. M. connects for the North and West and from Florence and Darlington.		
For further information apply to J. W. CHINA, Agent, Sumter, S. C.		

Supplement No. 1 to Time Table No. 1 Taking Effect 12.01 A. M. August 20th, 1913.

## SOUTHWARD.

No. 23	No. 21
Mixed Daily.	Mixed Daily.
7.00 P. M.	10.50 A. M. Lv. Hartsville.
7.52 P. M.	11.15 A. M. Lv. Lydia.
7.50 P. M.	11.45 A. M. Lv. Lamar.
8.20 P. M.	12.15 P. M. Ar. Timville.

## NORTHBWARD.

No. 22	No. 24
Mixed Daily.	Mixed Daily.
8.25 A. M.	4.45 P. M. Ar. Hartsville.
8.00 A. M.	4.29 P. M. Lv. Lydia.
7.30 A. M.	3.50 P. M. Lv. Lamar.
7.00 A. M.	3.20 P. M. Lv. Timville.

Eastern standard time  
For any additional information apply to C. C. GRAVES, Traffic Manager.

Hamlet, N. C.